



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Alabama Named Association of Consulting Foresters' Large Chapter of the Year** *Sponsored by STIHL, the Award Recognizes Alabama's Outstanding Achievements*

Williamsburg, VA – For exemplifying outstanding contributions to forestry, their local community and the [Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](#), (ACF), ACF's Alabama chapter has been awarded its Large Chapter of the Year Award. ACF is a national organization of forestry professionals that help landowners address their land-use and forestry challenges.

Sponsored by [STIHL](#)®, the large chapter of the year award honors one of ACF's 24 chapters with more than 20 members. The award recognizes the activities of the Alabama chapter from July 2021 to June 2022.

As part of the honor, the Alabama chapter will receive \$1,500 which recognizes the chapter's strength in membership and recruitment, continuing education, outreach to related organizations, outreach to landowners, and short-and long-term goals.

"We hosted one of ACF's first regional conferences for the Gulf/South region in Huntsville in October 2021," said Arthia (Billy) Rye, ACF, president of [Forest Management Specialists, Inc.](#), Florence, Alabama, and ACF Alabama Chapter Chair. "We are honored to receive this award and thank STIHL for its sponsorship. We plan to use the funds to educate landowners about the advantages of hiring ACF members to solve their forest management needs."

According to Rye, the Alabama chapter volunteers served as facilitators at Teacher Conservation Workshops, wrote articles on forest management topics for landowners, were speakers at various landowner and agency meetings, and assisted with creating a new Natural Resource Planning Committees for inactive counties.

Rye says that the chapter's members willingly help promote the practice of consulting forestry. "Most of our members are eager to serve and find their chapter involvement very rewarding," he added.

"The chapter received the award for improving the chapter's visibility and promoting its brand; deep commitment and involvement in industry and civic organizations, donations to forestry related organizations, and hosting ACF's first Gulf/South regional conference in 2021," said Wayne Pfluger, ACF, president of [Lone Star Forestry](#), Huntsville, Texas, and president of ACF.

ACF's Small Chapter of the Year award was given to the ACF Four Corners chapter for meeting similar criteria. The Small Chapter award of \$500 honors an ACF chapter with less than 20 members.

"On behalf of ACF members, I congratulate the Alabama chapter on being selected the Large Chapter of the Year.," said Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director of ACF. "I also thank STIHL for sponsoring both of our chapter of the year awards for the fifth year."

The consulting foresters that comprise ACF membership are located across the U.S. Through their work with landowners, they enhance property values, increase the value of timber, produce a more sustainable timber harvest, protect wildlife habitat, and establish and protect a family's forest legacy.

As a condition of membership, every consulting forester must have minimum education and experience levels, complete the Practice of Consulting Forestry course, and most importantly, agree to adhere to the organization's stringent Code of Ethics.

For more information about ACF, log onto [www.acf-foresters.org](http://www.acf-foresters.org).

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#### **About ACF**

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters represents independent professionals who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. ACF members help landowners enhance property values, increase the value of timber, produce a more sustainable timber harvest, enhance wildlife habitat, and establish and protect your family's forest legacy. As the gold standard of consulting foresters, ACF has 24 chapters across the U.S. offers its members professional development, publications, insurance, networking opportunities, and advocacy information on state and federal issues. For more information, log onto [www.acf-foresters.org](http://www.acf-foresters.org).